



Deborah B. Goldberg
Treasurer and Receiver General
Chair

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the State Treasurer
State Board of Retirement
Boston, Massachusetts 02108-4747

Kathryn Kougias
Executive Director

Dear Member:

September 2024

On Thursday, August 8, 2024, Governor Healey signed into law the HERO Act.

The HERO Act (the "Act") may be an opportunity for members of the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System ("MSERS") who are veterans to purchase creditable service for their military service, if for whatever reason, they have not executed a military service purchase via the Massachusetts State Retirement Board (the "Board"). The HERO Act requires that the Board notify its MSERS members of this opportunity within 90 days of the Act's effective date of August 8, 2024.

If you are a veteran and an active member with less than 10 years of creditable service as of the date of the Act, the Act institutes a deadline to purchase military service of within a year of vesting in the retirement system, effectively 11 years. If you are a veteran and an active member of the MSERS who had vested in the system as of August 8, 2024, you have up to one year from the date of the Act to purchase eligible creditable military service. This one-year provision applies to any active member and veteran regardless of whether or not you previously applied to purchase this service. That means active, vested MSERS members only have until August 8, 2025, to take advantage of this special provision to purchase eligible creditable military service.

For new MSERS members, the Act stipulates, the member has up to one year after the date they have vested in the retirement system to complete such a purchase or enter into a military service purchase agreement. This information will be included in the new member enrollment form and through a separate communication.

If you are a current or former service member in the National Guard or a Reservist, your eligibility and ability to purchase creditable service for such time may be different. Please contact our office to discuss purchasing the time. Please visit our website at www.mass.gov/retirement to view the HERO Act in its entirety and to access the "Veterans' Creditable Service Purchase Form" if you would like to apply for the purchase afforded to active members during this special grace period or within the regular purchase period. **If you have any questions, please contact our Service Purchase representatives at (617) 367-9333 extension 856.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn Kougias".

Kathryn Kougias
Executive Director

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